



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Public Hearing – March 9, 2009  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Gina McCarthy  
Department of Environmental Protection

**House Bill No. 6428 (Raised) - AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFENSE OF  
HUNTING WHILE INTOXICATED**

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Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised House Bill No. 6428 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFENSE OF HUNTING WHILE INTOXICATED. The Department is pleased to support this bill which endeavors to ensure public safety by prohibiting persons from hunting in Connecticut while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The proposed amendments to CGS 53-206d, changing the definition of elevated blood alcohol content from ten-hundredths to eight-hundredths of one percent of alcohol, by weight mirrors the same standard that is in place for operation of a motor vehicle (14-227a), all-terrain vehicles or snowmobiles (14-227a) and for the operation of a vessel (15-140l & 15-140n).

DEP recommends that the language, starting line 19 at (ii) through line 26 be deleted. Lowering the standard to eight-hundredths would make the standard for a second violation of seven-hundredths insignificant. This would also be true for the definition of impairment that follows. By deleting the aforementioned lines, subsection (b) (1) would be consistent with subsection (a) (1) of CGS 53-206d.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill, the DEP would be pleased to work with the bill sponsors to make the suggested changes as presented above. If you require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEP Legislative Liaison at (860)-424-3401.